Bi-lateral Agreement between India and USA

2950. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH :
SHRI S. AGNIRAJ :
SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of various bi-lateral agreements entered between India and U.S.A. in software, export, trade, political, economic and technical fields during the recent visit of the American President to India;

(b) what will be the main sectors which will be benefited by these agreements;

(c) whether the U.S.A. has agreed to completely lift the economic sections levied on India; and

(d) whether visa problems of the Indian staying in USA was also discussed during the visit ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) During the visit of the US President to India from March 21-25, 2000, PM and President Clinton signed a Joint Statement on 21st March in New Delhi, outlining their vision of a closer and qualitatively new relationship in the 21st Century and the architecture of regular, wide-ranging institutional dialogue between India and the United States. India and the US also signed an Agreement to set up an Indo-US Science and Technology Forum to facilitate scientific contacts and collaboration between the two countries. The two sides also issued a Joint Statement on intensifying co-operation in Energy and Environment and a Joint Statement setting out the terms of reference for the Commercial Dialogue. In addition, several agreements and MoUs were also signed between the private sectors of the two countries.

(b) The initiatives launched during the visit of the US President to India are likely to benefit the economic sector, especially the small and medium scale industries, information technology and knowledge-based industries as well as units engaged in foreign trade and investment. They will also increase mutually beneficial co-operation in the energy and environment sectors; and in science and technology. The institutionalised dialogue with the United States will also enhance co-operation and mutual understanding on security issues,

international development of mutual concerns and counter-terrorism.

(c) In accordance with the presidential waiver authority provided by the Defence Appropriations Act, 2000, passed by the US Congress in October 1999, the US has lifted unilateral restrictions against India, except for the restrictions relating to lending by International Financial Institutions for non-humanitarian purposes and on exports of defence and dual use products and technologies. The US has not indicated the time frame for lifting of the remaining restrictions.

(d) No, Sir. Both sides, however, recognise that the Indians living in the United States are making a vital contribution to the American society and to strengthening of Indo-US relations, and that these ties of kinship between the two countries should be nurtured. Government remains committed to safeguarding the welfare of Indians living abroad, including in the United States, and accords high importance to this objective in its bilateral relations with host countries.

Discussion on sanctions imposed by United States

2951. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA :

SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that many Indian concerns continue to be on the sanctions black list imposed by US after Pokhran tests;

(b) if so, whether the matter was taken up with the US President and other senior officials during the recent visit to India; and

(c) if so, what was the outcome of the discussions ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) Yes, Sir. As part of the unilateral restrictions imposed against India following the nuclear tests of May 1998, the US published in November 1998 the so-called Entities List of over 200 Indian organisations, companies and research institutions that were subjected to enhanced restrictions. With effect from March 2000, 51 organisations have been taken off the Entities List.

(b) Government has used every opportunity to convey to the US, including during the visit of President Clinton, that all unilateral restrictions against India are unjustified and counter-productive and should be completely lifted.